

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release - February 1, 1967 -

L. Mendel Rivers (D-S.Car.), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, announced today immediately following the organization meeting of the Committee, that he had appointed the Honorable Samuel S. Stratton (D.-N.Y.), to head a special subcommittee to look into the flash fires in oxygen-filled space capsules which have cost the lives of five service personnel in the last week.

The Chairman also appointed Dr. Durward Hall (R.-Mo.) to serve on the subcommittee.

Mr. Stratton had written a letter to the Chairman earlier today pointing out that besides the two airmen killed at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, yesterday, the three astronauts who lost their lives last Friday were all military personnel on loan to the Space Agency, a fact which he said further underlined the proper responsibility and concern of the Armed Services Committee for the safety of all military personnel.

Rivers said he requested the subcommittee to proceed immediately in cooperation with the military departments and NASA, to look into the two recent flash fires and report to the full Committee at the earliest possible date.

Chairman Rivers said, "That section of the Constitution which gives to the Congress (and delegated to the Armed Services Committee) the responsibility to provide for an Army and Navy, makes it doubly imperative that the Committee on Armed Services obtain a full and comprehensive report on this tragedy. If we did not do this," said Chairman Rivers, "we would be derelict in our duty to protect the safety and welfare of all uniformed personnel no matter where serving."

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
90th Congress

SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1

Mr. Philbin, Chairman	Mr. Arends
Mr. Bennett	Mr. Gubser
Mr. Stratton	Mr. King
Mr. Randall	Mr. Dickinson
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Machen	

SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2

Mr. Hebert, Chairman	Mr. Bray
Mr. Hardy	Mr. Chamberlain
Mr. Nedzi	Mr. Pirnie
Mr. Lennon	Mr. Clancy
Mr. Hagan	
Mr. Long	

SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3

Mr. Price, Chairman	Mr. O'Konski
Mr. Pike	Mr. Hall
Mr. Ichord	Mr. Stafford
Mr. Leggett	Mr. Whalen
Mr. Hicks	

SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4

Mr. Fisher, Chairman	Mr. Bob Wilson
Mr. Byrne	Mr. Schweiker
Mr. Charles H. Wilson	Mr. Halleck
Mr. Irwin	Mr. Smith
Mr. Walker	

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
90th Congress

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Mr. Rivers, Chairman	Mr. Bates
Mr. Philbin	Mr. Arends
Mr. Hebert	Mr. O'Konski
Mr. Price	Mr. Bray
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Halleck
Mr. Hardy	
Mr. Bennett	

REAL ESTATE

Mr. Bennett, Chairman	Mr. Bray
Mr. Byrne	Mr. King
Mr. Stratton	Mr. Smith
Mr. Ichord	

ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE

Mr. Stratton, Chairman	Mr. Chamberlain
Mr. Leggett	Mr. Stafford
Mr. Hicks	Mr. Schweiker

COMMERCIAL AIR TRANSPORTATION FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
WHILE ON AUTHORIZED LEAVE

Mr. Ichord, Chairman	Mr. Chamberlain
Mr. Lennon	Mr. Schweiker
Mr. Randall	

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Special Subcommittees
House Armed Services Committee
90th Congress

MILITARY ACADEMIES

Mr. Hebert, Chairman	Mr. Gubser
Mr. Price	Mr. Pirnie
Mr. Bennett	Mr. Clancy

RETIREMENT

Mr. Hebert, Chairman	Mr. O'Konski
Mr. Stratton	Mr. Bob Wilson
Mr. Machen	Mr. Gubser
Mr. Long	

TACTICAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT

Mr. Pike, Chairman	Mr. Bob Wilson
Mr. Ichord	Mr. Gubser
Mr. Nedzi	Mr. Chamberlain
Mr. Hagan	Mr. Dickinson
Mr. Irwin	Mr. Whalen
Mr. Evans	

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. Hardy, Chairman	Mr. Gubser
Mr. Pike	Mr. Pirnie
Mr. Lennon	